

"WOMEN OFFENDERS"

Conclusion

The data on women offenders is divided into three sections. The first section covers the number of women in jails and prisons, on probation and on work release; the second examines the profile of the woman offender; and the third studies the social and demographic characteristics of both male and female prisoners.

Data in the first section shows that the number of male offenders exceeds the number of female offenders. The female offenders serve shorter prison terms and have better parole records than their male counterparts. Yet, despite their good behavior, very few women in prison have been offered the opportunity to enter education or employment programs. The establishment of smaller facilities dispersed throughout the state would facilitate employment placement programs since the women would be nearer to the home towns where they work.

In the second section statistics tell that the average female inmate is young, poor, single and inadequately skilled. She is also unlikely to return to prison, and her crime is usually nonviolent. These factors indicate that she is prime for further educational instruction, job training and employment opportunities. Interaction between the Department of Correction, the General Assembly and the community should be encouraged to open up more jobs to female inmates.

The findings in the third section demonstrate significant differences in the profiles of male and female inmates. With this information we encourage the planning divisions of the prison system to recognize the need for separate programs suited specifically for the female offender and the male offender.

Recommendations

The Commission on the Education and Employment of Women recommends:

1. that the Department of Correction plan for an increase in educational and employment opportunities for women prisoners by:
 - a. increasing the opportunities for work-release and study-release programs.
 - b. expanding the vocational and educational facilities in the Women's Correctional Institution and
 - c. alleviating inmate discrimination among local employers for work-release programs;